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4. The Corps shall implement an adaptive management process to review results of the monitoring program and other applicable new information and determine actions necessary to minimize any adverse Project effect:
 - a. Establish the adaptive management team that implements the adaptive management process. The adaptive management team will meet annually (or more frequently if new circumstances arise) to review scientific information collected through monitoring, research, or best management practices while implementing this action.
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Action Plan: Initial meeting on adaptive management process held with NOAA Fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on December 13, 2002.

Participants in Adaptive Management Team: Corps, Sponsoring ports, NOAA Fisheries, USFWS, as principals. ODEQ, ODLCD, WDOE, member Tribal Nations, CRITFC as consultatory members.

Meeting structure: Review research proposals and monitoring actions in early spring. Proposals reviewed by wide regional audience including an expert's panel if the AMT feels it is necessary. Results of research and monitoring actions will be presented to a wide audience of interested parties in winter. Decisions about whether the results reach a trigger action will be made by Corps' adaptive management technical team for referral to AMT.

Trigger meetings: It was proposed to begin a series of trigger meetings that will develop the trigger values that will be used in the adaptive management process. It is envisioned that this process will utilize experts in the different fields to help make the decision on the values.

Adaptive management process: It is envisioned that the adaptive management plan will be developed and overseen by a contractor.

The AMT was established to provide input to evaluation and monitoring results and then render management decisions on adapting project implementation actions to counter or negate adverse effects. The AMT and proposed monitoring actions are intended to validate the conclusions of the 2001 BA, help minimize take of listed species, and ensure that proposed activities will not jeopardize listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitat [ESA Section 7(a)(2)]. The proposed monitoring plan, on which the AMT will rely for appropriate data, will monitor to address uncertainty and risk related to potential project effects over the long term and to validate assumptions used in analyzing

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project effects. The Biological Opinions specified that the adaptive management process would conform with NOAA Fisheries guidance found in *Federal Register* July 1, 2000.

The adaptive management process will include input from the tribes, state resource agencies and interested stakeholder groups. The meetings will be semi-annual and open to the public; evaluation proposals, results and decisions will be posted to the Corps' website. The input provided by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, the tribes and the states will be considered in making recommendations to the adaptive management workgroup. The AMT is prepared to meet with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, member tribes, and the states to discuss areas of concern before making decisions.

The Corps intends to have a process separate from the ESA adaptive management process for state issues related to water quality and coastal zone authorities because these issues are much broader. This process has been proposed and recently discussed with WDOE, ODEQ, Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, and USEPA as an adaptive management process to deal with 401 and CZMA concerns with both states, and to discuss both the channel improvement project and the MCR project from a regulatory perspective.

Schedule:	First meeting held	December 13, 2002 to discuss process
	Award contract for Plan	May 2003
	Complete plan	September 2003
	Hold trigger workshop	November 2003

